

Government Resolutions Nos. 8227 of 1st December, 1891, and 108 of 7th January, 1892. Since then, no progress has been made in this most important direction, but the areas previously closed have remained closed. No improvement can take place in the condition of the vegetation that sparsely covers the rocky hills of Bijápur, and parts of Belgaum and Dhárwár, without a system of periodical closure, to man and beast, strictly enforced.

166. During the financial year, 1892-93, the revenue aggregated Rs. 107,944 against Rs. 91,487 in 1891-92. The slight increase is ascribable to the introduction of the new fee-system ordered in Government Resolution No. 3595 of 23rd May, 1890.

(3). *Miscellaneous Produce.*

167. The principal article of minor produce in Kánara and Belgaum is *harda* (fruit of the *Terminalia chebula*). During the year under report, the *harda* collection was very poor owing to heavy rain in October and November, which spoilt the quality of the crop. The rates obtained were also lower than those in 1891-92. The collection of the two years was :—

		1891-92. Khandis.	1892-93. Khandis.
Northern Division of Kánara	...	1,536	701
Central Division of Kánara	...	425	149
Southern Division of Kánara	...	1,564	1,505
Belgaum Division	...	5,148	2,891
		<hr/> 8,673	<hr/> 5,246
	Rs. ...	<hr/> 1,35,729	<hr/> 97,058

168. The other important articles exploited in the Circle are *shigekdi* (pods of *Acacia concinna*), wax, gum, wild pepper and spices, catechu and tárwád-bark (*Cassia auriculata*).

169. The receipts from minor products amounted to Rs. 1,30,292 during the period under report, against Rs. 1,65,012 in 1891-92.

170. The average amount realized during the last 3 years by the sale of each one of the more important minor products is given below and will give a good idea of the importance of each :—

	Rs.
Harda	1,22,721
Spices and pepper	2,935
Catechu	4,562
Honey and wax	4,095
Tárwád-bark	2,088
Shigekái	5,103

171. In December last, Government issued orders laying down certain principles on which minor products should be exploited, and the Collector and Divisional Officer now decide, each year, which species of minor produce shall be sold during the ensuing year, and which kind shall be left for the free consumption of the public.

172. *Hardas* are sold departmentally, but the right to collect other reserved minor produce is generally sold by auction. It is not the best mode of disposing of some kinds of produce (*e.g.*, pepper), but in the present weak state of establishments, it is necessary to avoid departmental operations as much as possible.

CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST-PRODUCE.

173. The yield for the period under report was as follows :—

Northern, Central and Southern Divisions of Kánara.

174. The large teak exploited, yielded 305,500 cubic-feet against 354,459 cubic-feet in 1891-92; and small teak, such as poles, rafters, &c., aggregated 50,940 cubic-feet against 81,360 cubic-feet.

175. The quantity of large junglewood removed, rose, from 265,756 cubic-feet in 1891-92, to 296,440 cubic-feet in 1892-93, and that of small junglewood, from 5,968 cubic-feet, to 29,844 cubic-feet. The quantity of large blackwood, exploited, also rose, from 24,546 cubic-feet, to 55,551 cubic feet, and that of small blackwood from 137 to 220 cubic-feet.

176. The decrease in the yield of large teak occurs in all three Divisions : in Northern Kánara it amounted to 16,353 cubic-feet : in Central Kánara to 27,517 : and in Southern Kánara to 5,089. The decrease of small teak was 13,578 in Northern and 16,487 in Central Kánara. Cuttings were curtailed because there was a large stock of teak-timber on hand owing to a falling-off in the demand for timber in previous years.

177. This falling-off is no doubt partly due to bad agricultural seasons, and general stagnation of trade, but it is also partly due to the competition of Burma-wood, brought by the Southern Mahratta Railway, which is extensively used by private persons and contractors for public works. Burma-teak is much inferior to Kánara-teak for durability, but it is sawn and free from defects that catch the eye, and compares favourably in appearance with the roughly-adzed, more or less defective, timber of our depôts.

178. The increased yield of blackwood is owing to the demand which has somewhat suddenly sprung up for that wood for export to ports on the coast and to Europe, where the timber is used for veneering purposes, and we may, therefore, expect to see the demand for it increase year by year. There is a large supply available in Kánara, but the local demand is small, and the opening-up of outside markets for the surplus is, therefore, a matter of considerable importance. The increased quantity exploited in the Northern Division to meet this demand amounted to 32,215 cubic-feet.

179. The quantity of large and small jungle-wood, exploited during the year under report, was larger by 30,684 cubic-feet.

180. The number of bamboos extracted, rose, from 3,294,192 in 1891-92 to 4,507,910 in 1892-93.

181. The firewood exploited, fell, from 2,025,643, to 1,138,355 cubic-feet. The decrease (931,586) in firewood is met with in the Central Division of Kánara where the contractor, who purchased fuel for export from the Ankola-forests failed to carry out his contract. There was an increase of 19,079 cubic-feet in Northern and 25,219 in Southern Kánara. The quantity supplied from the former Division to the Southern Mahratta Railway-Company, however, fell from 289,000 to 202,232 cubic-feet. The decrease is owing to difficulties of labour and transport in Kánara which makes the exploitation of firewood in larger quantities unprofitable at present prices.

182. There was a slight increase in the outturn of charcoal and sandalwood.

183. The yield of myrabollams decreased, from 3,346 khandis, to 2,319 khandis, for the reason explained above.

Belgaum.

184. The yield of large teak from improvement-cuttings amounted to 18,661 cubic-feet against 4,424 cubic-feet in 1891-92 ; of junglewood to 4,202, and of blackwood to 688 cubic-feet, against 184 cubic-feet and 4,801 cubic-feet, respectively.

185. The outturn of teak, black- and jungle-wood-poles measured 36,783 cubic-feet, 12,791 cubic-feet and 484 cubic-feet, respectively, against 34,979, 190 and 12,313 cubic-feet. 3,181 cubic-feet of *bābul* were brought in, against 575 cubic-feet in the previous year.

186. The quantity of firewood exploited, shows an increase. The running-fuel for the Southern Mahratta Railway Company amounted to 3,128,149 cubic-feet against 2,893,400 cubic-feet ; lighting-fuel to 33,262 cubic-feet against 9,522 cubic-feet ; and the firewood removed for other purposes to 735,823 cubic-feet against 724,422 cubic-feet.

187. The yield of myrobollams fell, from 5,148 khandis in 1891-92, to 2,751 in 1892-93.

188. The number of bamboos rose, from 402,037, to 678,467. The outturn of *shigekāi* (pods of *Acacia concinna*) also rose, from 120, to 140 khandis.

Dhárwār.

189. The yield of teak decreased, from 59,635 cubic-feet in 1891-92, to 21,079 cubic-feet in 1892-93 ; and of jungle- and black-wood-rafters, pieces, &c., and *jarayat*-pieces (agricultural wood) from 10,282, to 5,036 cubic-feet.

190. On the other hand, the quantity of fuel extracted, increased, from 213,722 cubic-feet, to 227,401 cubic-feet, and the number of bamboos, from 335,247, to 465,134. 4 khandis of myrobollams and 3,359 sandalwood-trees were also obtained during the year under report.

191. The decrease in the quantity of timber exploited is due to the large balance in the depôts at the beginning of the year, the proximate causes being the agricultural distress during the previous year and the general depression of trade.

Bijāpur.

192. The yield of timber increased, from 2,659 cubic-feet in 1891-92, to 3,069 cubic-feet in 1892-93 ; that of cart-loads of firewood decreased, from 65,991, to 45,810, and of animal-loads, from 65,656, to 62,440 cubic-feet. But the head-loads of firewood increased, from 104,765, to 106,983 cubic-feet.

Kolába.

193. The yield of teak remained much the same as that of the previous year. The quantity of firewood removed increased, from 113,411 cubic-feet, to 480,814.

Ratnágiri.

194. The timber-yield of teak and junglewood amounted to 69,350 cubic-feet against 128,575 cubic-feet in 1891-92, and of firewood to 154,844 cubic-feet against 26,925. 14 maunds of myrobollams were also exploited during the year under report.

195. Most of the timber cut in Ratnágiri is procured from Khoti-land, and the yield is, consequently, uncertain.

METHODS OF EXPLOITATION.

196. The selection-method is generally adopted in the exploitation of large and small timber. The trees to be cut are marked, before exploitation, by a Forest-officer, and the wood is then removed by a contractor, or departmentally, to a depôt, where it is sold. In Kolába, a good deal of wood is sold standing.

197. Fuel-forests are cut clean, and the produce is sold after stacking at so and so much per 100 cubic-feet.

198. Improvement-fellings are confined to plantations and to the larger and best-stocked forests of Belgaum and Kánara, where large areas are annually taken in hand.

199. The areas over which improvement fellings were carried out aggregated about 250,000 acres. Almost the whole of this area comes under the category of saleable fellings.

200. Bamboos are exploited on the permit-system.

CHAPTER IV.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

201. The details of the year's transactions are shown in Forms No. 61—65 appended.

202. The receipts and expenditure of the Southern Circle for the period under report, 1st April, 1892, to 30th June 1893, were :—

Receipts.	CHARGES.			Surplus.
	A.—Conser- vancy and Works.	B.—Establish- ments.	Total.	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1,384,371	460,866	358,276	819,142	565,229

203. The figures for the financial years 1891-92 and 1892-93 were :—

Year. —	Receipts.	CHARGES.			Surplus or net revenue.
		A.—Conservancy and Works.	B.—Establish- ments.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1891-92 ...	1,147,707	437,415	267,816	705,231	442,476
1892-93 ...	1,201,085	388,824	285,773	674,597	526,488
Increase ...	53,378	17,957	84,012
Decrease	48,591	30,634

204. Both the gross and the net revenues of the year under report were larger than those of the year before. The increase is met with chiefly in the Northern Division of Kánara and Kolába, and is due to more favourable sales of timber exploited by Government Agency.

205. The following shows the revenue and outstandings at the end of the period under report, as well as at the end of the financial years :—